

what never has been accomplished never will be. Men will probably discover the north pole, make good flying machines and live under a regime such as socialists dream of, before the tired world burns up. History to the contrary notwithstanding.

Ben Bolt himself must have been a cad to frown at a girl as sweet as Alice until she "trembled with fear."

Pudd'nhead Wilson is attracting large houses and favorable press comment wherever he plays. Frank Mayo deserves his success. It is pathetic, however, that recognition should come so late. He has been a conscientious artist all his life, worked hard and had ideals, but fame has only beckoned him until he arrived in Mark Twain's play, wherein fame takes hold of his hand to walk with him through the rest of his life. Pudd'nhead and Frank Mayo are alike in character. Mark Twain's hero is a keen minded old scientist slightly embittered by a life-long snubbing from his neighbors and relatives who think him daft because his ways are not their ways, nor his thoughts their thoughts. The snubbing has only sharpened his epigrams and set him apart from them to pursue his own course unhindered by frienship or love. This biography might be Mayo's. The two old men have arrived at the same point when the play begins. The play itself is a good one but it does not quite explain itself as it proceeds. The appearance of the twins is unintelligible. They are not connected especially with any other person in the play. They neither make love nor are made love to. They are picturesque and effective but as previously stated, not directly connected with the action of the play. They should not be left out, but their entrance might be managed differently. With this and one or two other minor changes it may become a great American drama like that of Rip Van Winkle.

New York critics are trying to discover why Miss Yaw should sing so high and sing so low. Her highest note is E above high E, her lowest is not recorded. They say it must be because she has such a very long neck that her vocal cords have the range of a piano. A picture of her in evening dress shows a swan-like neck but nothing extraordinary enough to make her, as she is, unique among the singers of the world.

Thomas Q. Seabrooke, Sol Smith Russell and Richard Mansfield are becoming so used to making speeches before the curtain that when they learn a new part they write a speech to go with it as a matter of course. Those actors who are not orators should require the playwright to prepare them a sparkling, jovial tactful before-the-curtain speech. Richard Mansfield uses the opportunity to convince the public of its own shortcomings principally as regards matters of dramatic taste. When he was forced to take to the road again after losing money in his New York theatre he made his New York audiences pay for his chagrin and disappointment. Mr. Mansfield has a sharp tongue and a shrewish temper which make his short speeches like the small bottles of tobasco—a little flavors a very large dish. Mr. Seabrooke's and Mr. Russell's speeches are genial expressions of good will. None of these actors requires to have speeches written for them. They draw from their own rich stores of experience and humour.

The Nebraska Sugar school of which Professor Nicholson is director, sends out an announcement of the fifth annual session of the school. It will open at the university on the fourth of next month. "Its objects are to give instruc-

tion in the best methods of sugar beet culture and in the details of factory methods of sugar-making." Laboratory and lecture courses are open to every one irrespective of previous education. The farmers of the state have already begun to see the results of beet study. The study of languages, literature and history enriches the state just as surely, though a little more slowly. Nebraska commerce seems to be sinking. It needs a spar or a rope at once. Prof. Nicholson offers beets. If the state might pick and choose it could find no better means of prosperity. Mark Twain tells of a visit to Hawaii where the onion is the chief article of diet, the chief occupant of the ground. The parents place the glistening vegetable before their growing sons, comment on its qualities; its strength, beauty, integrity and finish by the exhortation "Be an Onion." In the days when the beet triumphs over over-produced corn the grateful Nebraska farmer may, in the Hawaiian sense, exhort his son to be a beet.

The New York Sunday World has a page devoted to dime museum novelties with the freak's picture at the head of the column. This is a regular feature of its Sunday issue. Two or three columns are generally devoted to the latest tools for breaking into safes with a full description of the modus operandi. If the boys of criminal parents lack knowledge of what to use or where to procure the best safe breaking instruments it will not be the fault of the Sunday papers. If foreigners judge of the intelligence of the reading public of this country by the Sunday papers, no wonder they go home and write about America-degenerate.

The meeting in Chicago on Tuesday to boom McKinley laid the prostration of trade to the Wilson bill. Thomas Dolan, the president of the convention, spoke to an audience representing many billions of invested capital. He advocated protection. The eastern part of this country wants barriers erected between England and the west so that the manufacturers there can get here sooner than England. Mr. McKinley may be able to do what no man in America has done before. There is no example of a man's getting to be president who has fastened his name to a bill as important as the McKinley bill.

The arrangements for the reception to be given to the women of the Press association next Friday afternoon are not entirely completed. It may be given at the university instead of at the Lincoln. The guests can then inspect the university as well as enjoy the social part of the reception. Full notice will be given in the daily papers of the completed arrangements.

S. B. H.

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3d Prize, **Cash,** - - - - - 50
10 Cash Prizes, each \$20, - - - - 200
15 Cash Prizes, each \$10, - - - - 150
28 Prizes, - - - - \$1300

The first prize will be given to the person who constructs the shortest sentence, in English, containing all the letters in the alphabet. The other prizes will go in regular order to those competitors whose sentences stand next in point of brevity.

CONDITIONS.

The length of a sentence is to be measured by the number of letters it contains, and each contestant must indicate by figures at the close of his sentence just how long it is. The sentence must have some meaning. Geographical names and names of persons cannot be used. The contest closes February 15th, 1896, and the results will be published one week later. In case two or more prize-winning sentences are equally short the one first received will be given preference. Every competitor whose sentence is less than 116 letters in length will receive Wilkie Collins' works in paper cover, including twelve complete novels, whether he wins a prize or not. No contestant can enter more than one sentence nor combine with other competitors. Residents of Omaha are not permitted to take any part, directly or indirectly, in this contest. Piano now on exhibition at Hayden Bros.' Music Store, Omaha, Neb.

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WILLIAM J. BRYAN, is Editor,
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